

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



## CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

**24-HOUR REPORT****6 DECEMBER 2017**

---

**(U) NATIONAL****(U) District of Columbia – Arrests for Illegal Border Crossings Hit 46-Year Low**

(U) Washington – Arrests of people trying to cross illegally into the United States from Mexico plunged to the lowest level since 1971, while immigration arrests in the interior of the country increased by 25 percent, according to a Department of Homeland Security announcement yesterday. US Border Patrol officers apprehended 310,531 people for being in the country illegally in fiscal 2017—a 25 percent decrease from the year before. Arrests by immigration agents in the interior of the country spiked from the year before to 143,470 immigrants—mostly from Central America.

SOURCE: 5 December 2017, [NPR](#)

**(U) District of Columbia – US Warns Americans about Travel to Jerusalem’s Old City and West Bank**

(U) Washington – The US State Department issued travel restrictions yesterday for embassy staff in Jerusalem and travel warnings for Americans destined for the city. With widespread calls for demonstrations beginning today in Jerusalem and the West Bank, US government employees and their family members are not permitted to conduct personal travel in Jerusalem’s Old City and in the West Bank until further notice. Palestinian President Abbas warned of “dangerous consequences”, and Israeli troops are preparing for possible violence.

SOURCE: 5 December 2017, [Independent](#)

**(U) Minnesota – Fertility Clinic Patient Information Hacked, Ransom Demanded**

(U) Edina – Thousands of patients at a fertility center in Edina had their personal and health information exposed by a hacker demanding a ransom from the company. There were nearly 3,300 potentially affected patients whose information was exposed at the clinic. There is no evidence that patient information was accessed, viewed, or used, according to the chief marketing officer for the Denver-based company. The company said it discovered its computer server had been the victim of the ransomware invasion on 3 October and then notified patients.

SOURCE: 5 December 2017, [Star Tribune](#)

**(U) New York – ISIS-Linked Group Warns Cyber War on US is ‘Imminent’**

(U) New York – A group calling itself "Electronic Ghosts of the Caliphate" threatened cyberattacks against the United States, planned for 8 December. “We will face you with a massive cyber war,” the group warned in a recent video, describing the planned cyberattacks as “black days you will remember,” according to a translation provided to media. The video first surfaced on 4 December and has spread online via social media. Electronic Ghosts of the Caliphate is one of more than a dozen hacking groups that merged in 2016 under the banner of the United Cyber Caliphate, which had been dormant for months before resurfacing in recent weeks, according to experts.

SOURCE: 5 December 2017, [International Business Times](#)

**(U) North Carolina – Local Government Paralyzed as Hacked Computer Files are Held for Ransom**

(U) Charlotte – Mecklenburg County government was paralyzed by an unknown computer hacker after a county employee unknowingly opened an email attachment on 4 December. The hacker essentially

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Form # 1168-442e-b407-de1a8c242c14

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

froze the county's electronic files and is seeking \$23,000 for an encryption key. The hackers do not have access to people's health records, social security numbers, or credit card information, according to authorities. The county manager indicated that she is open to the possibility of paying the ransom, which would be in bitcoin.

SOURCE: 5 December 2017, [Charlotte Observer](#)

**(U) Tennessee – Nine Sentenced in Meth Trafficking Conspiracy**

(U) Lebanon – Nine individuals, including two from California, have been sentenced during the past week to federal prison for their role in a multi-state methamphetamine trafficking conspiracy. Between February 2015 and July 2016, the two California defendants shipped methamphetamine from California to a home in Lebanon and Castalian Springs through FedEx and the US Postal Service. The Tennessee defendants were convicted of mailing cash payments back to California and selling methamphetamine to mid-level and street-level dealers in the mid-Tennessee area.

SOURCE: 5 December 2017, [Wilson Post](#)

**(U) INTERNATIONAL****(U) Afghanistan – Top Al-Qa'ida Leader Killed in Afghanistan**

(U) Kabul – Afghanistan's intelligence agency and the US military announced yesterday that a series of joint US-Afghan operations killed Omar bin Khatab, a top leader of al-Qa'ida, along with a number of other members. Khatab was the most senior leader killed in Afghanistan since the Taliban was driven from power in late 2001, according to an official. US military officials described Khatab as the number two leader of al-Qa'ida in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS), saying he was directly involved in fighting the Afghan government and foreign troops and advised the Taliban in night attacks with rockets and mortars.

SOURCE: 5 December 2017, [Washington Post](#)

**(U) England – Two Men Arrested in Plot to Assassinate British PM**

(U) London – Two men have been arrested on suspicion of plotting to kill Prime Minister Theresa May by using a bomb disguised as a bag to blow off the gates of Downing Street and then attack her with knives. The suspects were detained during raids in London and Birmingham last week and charged with terrorism offenses. The plot was revealed yesterday by the head of British domestic intelligence, who also said security services have foiled nine terrorist attacks against the UK in the last year. The two men are due to appear in Westminster Magistrates' Court today.

SOURCE: 6 December 2017, [Independent](#)

**(U) England – US Air Force Studying Falcons to Create a Drone-Destroying Robot**

(U) Oxford – Researchers at Oxford University, in partnership with the US Air Force, announced on 4 December they found that Peregrine falcons have a simple system of aerial hunting that the government hopes to apply to a new generation of drones that will hunt down other unmanned threats. The Pentagon has reportedly been looking at using lasers or jamming signals to keep drones away from high-security areas. This summer, military officials gave permission for drones entering the airspace of 133 US bases to be shot down if a threat was perceived.

SOURCE: 5 December 2017, [CBS 2 Los Angeles](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

*Warning: This document is the exclusive property of the State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) and is UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the California Public Records Act (Govt. Code Sec. 6250-6270). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with STAC policy relating to U//FOUO information and is not to be released to the public, the media, or other personnel who do not have a valid "need-to-know" without prior approval of an authorized STAC official. No portion of this report should be furnished to the media, either in written or verbal form.*

*This document contains excerpts of suspicious activities and incidents of interest to the STAC as obtained from open and unclassified sources.*